Appln. No. 09/883,247   IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0055
Amendment dated Dec. 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 25, 2004
Docket No. 6169-190

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A monitoring tool comprising:

a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to a subscribing e-commerce system;

a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;

a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said subscribing e-commerce system, and when a response is received in said collector; and,

an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

2.   (Original)   The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

3.   (Original)   The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems, said dispatcher dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list, said collector collecting responses to said dispatched placebo transactions, said logger computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received in said collector, said alerter alerting individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed

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transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

4. (Original) A monitoring tool comprising:

a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to a back-end transaction processing system associated with a subscribing e-commerce system;

a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;

a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said back-end transaction processing system, and when a response is received in said collector; and,

an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in said associated back-end transaction processing system.

5. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 4, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

6. (Original) A method for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,

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if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system.

7.   (Original)   A method for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system.

8.   (Original)   A method for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end transaction processing systems comprising the steps of:

reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;

generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list;

receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;

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computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received; and,

notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

9.   (Original)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system.

10.   (Original)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having

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a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform
the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing
system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out
condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
in the back-end transaction processing system; and,

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has
elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency
threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
in the back-end transaction processing system.

11.   (Original)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer
program for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end
transaction processing systems, said computer program having a plurality of code
sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;

generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in
said list;

receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;

computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is
dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is
received; and,

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notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

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